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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/776,597	02/05/2001	Ed Wilson	WILSON-1	9312

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EXAMINER

HSIEH, SHIH YUNG

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2837

DATE MAILED: 03/19/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/776,597

Applicant(s)
Wilson

Examiner
Shih-yung Hsieh

Art Unit
2837



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on Feb 5, 2001 is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- *See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- 15) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 16) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 17) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). 2 20) ☐ Other:

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1. Figure 2 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g).

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Carrico (5,477,764).

Regarding claim 12, Carrico discloses a guitar (10) comprising: a body (Fig. 1) defining string apertures (122); a neck (Fig. 1) extending from said body; tuning mechanism supported by said neck (The tuning mechanism is an essential part of a guitar. Fig. 1 would show the tuning mechanism if the entire picture of the guitar is shown, therefore this claimed limitation is inherently in the reference); replaceable tubular sleeve (200) placed within said apertures; strings (110) extending through said tubular sleeves to said tuning mechanisms (Fig. 1), wherein said tuning mechanism cause said strings to bend about and contact said tubular sleeves (Fig. 1).

Regarding claim 13, Carrico discloses the claimed invention.

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4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-2, and 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Liebchen (DE3924736) in view of Carrico.

Regarding claim 1, Liebchen discloses a device for preventing wear on the strings comprising: a block (4, 5) with a conduit (6), said block having a neck section (5) sized to fit within the string aperture of the guitar (the aperture the neck 5 fit in as shown in Fig. 2), and a head section (4) that is sized to be too large to pass through the string aperture, wherein the string aperture is sized to enable a guitar string to pass therethrough.

The difference between Liebchen's device and claim 1 is that claim 1 recites a tubular sleeve that defines a central conduit.

Carrico teaches a tubular sleeve (Fig. 7) that defines a central conduit (224) for attaching a string to a musical instrument. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to modify Liebchen's device as taught by Carrico to include a tubular sleeve that defines a central conduit for the purpose of attaching a string to a musical instrument.

Regarding claim 2, Liebchen discloses said conduit (6) expands within said head section (4), thereby creating a curved interior surface (Fig. 2).

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Regarding claims 6-8, it is obvious that the device of Liebchen in view of Carrico uses the same method steps recited in claims 6-8 to attach a string and reduce its wear.

6. Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carrico in view of Liebchen.

Carrico discloses the claimed invention except that said conduit expands within said head section, thereby creating a curved interior surface.

Liebchen teaches a conduit (6) that expands within a head section (4), thereby creating a curved interior surface for reducing string break. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to modify Carrico's guitar as taught by Liebchen to include a curved surface within said head section for the purpose of preventing string break.

7. Claims 15 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carrico in view of Borisoff.

Carrico discloses the claimed invention except disclosing the material of the tubular sleeve being synthetic Teflon.

Borisoff teaches using a synthetic Teflon sleeve (64, 114) to reduce frictions on the respective strings. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to modify Carrico's guitar as taught by Borisoff to include the material of the tubular sleeve being synthetic Teflon for the purpose of reducing the frictions on the respective strings.

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8. Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carrico in view of Cipriani (5,227,571).

Carrico disclose the claimed invention except disclosing the material of the tubular sleeve being a soft metal (aluminum is a soft metal as admitted by the applicant).

Cipriani teaches using a soft metal aluminum (col.5, line 57) for a saddle and bridge. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to modify Carrico's guitar as taught by Cipriani to include the material of the tubular sleeve being a soft metal for the purpose of providing durability.

9. Claims 3-4, and 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Liebchen in view of Carrico as applied to claims 1 and 6 above respectively, and further in view of Borisoff (4,535,670).

Liebchen in view of Carrico disclose the claimed invention except disclosing the material of the tubular sleeve being synthetic Teflon.

Borisoff teaches using a synthetic Teflon sleeve (64, 114) to reduce frictions on the respective strings. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to modify Liebchen in view of Carrico's device and method as taught by Borisoff to include the material of the tubular sleeve being synthetic Teflon for the purpose of reducing the frictions on the respective strings.

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10. Claims 5 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Liebchen in view of Carrico as applied to claims 1 and 6 respectively above, and further in view of Cipriani.

Liebchen in view of Carrico disclose the claimed invention except disclosing the material of the tubular sleeve being a soft metal including aluminum.

Cipriani teaches using a soft metal aluminum (col.5, line 57) for a saddle and bridge. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to modify Liebchen in view of Carrico's device and method as taught by Cipriani to include the material of the tubular sleeve being a soft metal aluminum for the purpose of providing durability.

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to (David) S.Y. Hsieh at telephone number (703) 308-1031.


SHIN-YUNG HSIEH
PRIMARY EXAMINER